

SUPPORT THE STRIKE!

SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 1977

ASSEMBLE AT THE PLAYGROUND AT CLEVELAND CIRCLE AT 1:00 PM

MARCH ALONG BEACON STREET TO BOSTON UNIVERSITY.

INDOOR RALLY AT HAYDEN HALL

**685 COMMONWEALTH AVE.
3:30 PM.**

**GOOD HEALTH
CARE STARTS
WITH GOOD
WORKING
CONDITIONS
PRETERM
ON STRIKE**

Labor on this folder donated.

SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION FOR PRETERM STRIKE

photos by Marcia Maglione



The Preterm abortion clinic workers have been on strike since October 19th. The strike is necessary because the management has been downgrading both the working conditions and the health care provided. The management has virtually refused to negotiate.

This strike is important to all who work in the Boston area where most workers and almost all women workers are unorganized. The success of this all-women strike is important to organizing women workers and Boston's huge hospital industry. Clearly, it is important to all women because the control and quality of gynecological care is at stake. Also, Preterm should be fought because it uses its profits to export sterilization techniques to the third world.

You can help by coming to the support demonstration on Saturday, Feb. 5 starting at 1:00 PM at Cleveland Circle.

WHY A STRIKE?

Preterm workers did not want to strike. A management in search of higher profits forced them to walk out. Four years ago, fulltime Preterm workers had satisfactory jobs. They worked at a place they believed helped women.

Preterm clinic had been set up in 1973 by Harry and Jane Levin to provide inexpensive con-

traceptive and abortion care for women. Abortion counseling was emphasized and full gynecological care was provided. Then there was a change in policy. To fund their other projects (see below), the Levins decided to increase profits by squeezing the workers. They began to emphasize abortions, reduce general gynecological care, and decrease counseling time. In November, 1974 the gynecological section was cut in half because it was not making money. The seven workers who were laid off were among Preterm's most outspoken critics.

Like all workers, those at Preterm had to defend themselves. One month after the firings, overwhelming support for a union forced an election. In May, 1975 all but three workers voted for Hospital and Health Care Workers Union, District 1199, AFL-CIO.

The workers demanded job security, layoffs on a seniority basis, maternity leave, a cost of living pay increase, insurance, sick leave, holidays, and vacation benefits. They insisted on a limit on caseload so that counseling would not be rushed and superficial. A very important demand was for a union shop. Without this, management could hire anti-union workers and destroy the union.

Preterm refused to discuss the basic issues or submit to binding arbitration. Even the National

Labor Relations Board issued a complaint that Preterm was not bargaining in good faith.

After 10 months of frustrating negotiations, 50 of the 68 members of the Preterm bargaining unit went out on strike October 19, 1976. Only the most recently hired, chosen for their anti-union attitudes, refused to strike.

Preterm still refuses to bargain seriously. Instead, it has hired up to 23 police to bring in half-trained strike breakers. The police have harassed the picketers by beating some and arresting 25. Still, the picket line has continued 11 hours a day for three months. The strike and picket line have cut Preterm's business in half.

ABORTION PROFITS

Preterm clinic boasts that it is non-profit. But non-profit companies are not really charity organizations. Ordinary business pays dividends to its owners; instead, Preterm pays huge salaries to its directors and channels its "non-profits" into Preterm Institute. The Institute's projects are selected and controlled by the Levins, not by the patients who pay for them.

The Preterm Institute develops abortion and sterilization techniques and trains people to use them in poor countries such as Iran, Afghanistan,

and Jamaica. This would be good if it were used to give women control over the decision whether or not to become pregnant. But the Levins don't want to increase these women's power over their lives; instead, they see them as a huge market to be conquered using hard-sell advertising techniques. For instance, Harry Levin has suggested using radio soap operas to tell women how rich their families would be with fewer children. These policies easily lead to outright coercion, as is happening in India.

WHAT WE THINK

The issues the strike raises are important. They focus on control of our working conditions, our bodies, and our lives.

Control over working conditions: We support the strikers' demands for a union contract with decent benefits. They, like most women workers in Boston, are underpaid and receive few benefits. In order for these women workers - hospital, sales, and clerical - to begin to overcome their economic inequality, they need to organize unions, have union contracts and union shops. These are first steps toward achieving meaningful control.

Control over our bodies: We support women's right to choose whether or not to have a child. In order to make this choice, women must have

access to effective birth control. Preterm, however, has decreased gynecological care, doesn't accept Medicaid for it, has sped up its counselors, and has repeatedly refused to allow post-abortion counseling. Abortion is also necessary, but Preterm, by making a profit on each abortion, makes the price higher than it should be.

Control over our lives: Preterm Institute researches and develops population control devices and hard-sell advertising methods for convincing third world women they need sterilization. Preterm clinic patients are guinea pigs for this: their bodies are the testing grounds for abortion methods and their fees pay for sterilization training.

Preterm must sign a fair contract with its workers.
Preterm must return to giving full gynecological care.
Preterm's role in population control must be exposed.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STRIKE

The outcome of this strike is important to all women and all workers.

The major organizing going on among Boston workers these days is among women. At Preterm, the very right to organize is being attacked. You can bet that other employers are watching closely.

A woman's right to choose if, how, and when to have a child is being accepted by more and more people. At Preterm, however, that choice is being restricted. Will women settle for rushed, expensive abortions with minimal counseling?

Winning the strike means furthering all workers' fights to organize and all women's fights for equality and good health care. If the strike is lost, we all lose.

THE DEMONSTRATION

The sustained picketing has been expensive for Preterm. But the Levins, like employers everywhere, are too concerned with keeping all of their power to give in easily. So it is necessary for all of us to help, just as all of us may benefit if the strike wins. You can help by joining the picket line Monday through Saturday at 1842 Beacon Street, Brookline, or just come to the support demonstration.

If you want further details or would like to help work on the demonstration, call the Preterm Strike Support Coalition at 661-4943.
Demonstration cosponsored by BU Chapter, National Lawyers Guild.